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SEPT. 23.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-five persons present.

SEPT. 30.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-two persons present.

The death of Edward Peace, M.D., a member, was announced.

On Cristatella Idae.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that a few days ago, while rambling in the Park with his little daughter, she had called his attention to what she supposed to be numerous caterpillars at the bottom of a brook. On examination they proved to be an extraordinary accumulation of *Cristatella Idae.* This species of polyzoon, or fresh-water ciliated polyp, he had discovered at Newport, R. I., upwards of twenty years ago, and described in the Proceedings of this Academy (1858–59). He had repeatedly sought for it in the vicinity of Philadelphia, but had never found it until now.

The development of the Cristatella in the locality indicated is most remarkable and wonderful for its extent. Thousands of vermicular groups spread over the bottom of the brook for about twenty feet of length and a yard diminishing to a foot in breadth. They invest all the submerged stones and plants, and are so closely crowded as to intertwine with one another, leaving only narrow intervals, without room for movement except by mutual displacement. The groups are all attached to a common basal membrane, from which, however, they are capable of separating themselves. A large patch of the membrane covered with groups of the Cristatella was raised and placed in a dish of water, and after a couple of days most of the groups glided away from the membrane to the bottom and sides of the dish. The basal membrane is amber colored, homogeneous, and obscurely granular. A patch of it, four inches long by two and a half inches wide, closely covered with groups of the polyp, preserved in alcohol, was presented as a specimen for the museum.

It would appear that in the development and growth of the Cristatella groups, they from time to time break up into smaller groups, and retain their connection only through the basal membrane, which seems to be of an excrementitious character

The basal membrane of the Cristatella was further interesting from the circumstance that in the intervals of the groups of polyps it harbored multitudes of *Difflugia corona.*

At this season the Cristatella groups are full of statoblasts or winter eggs, in all stages of development. The mature statoblasts, including the annulus, but excluding the marginal anchor spines, measure from 1.15 mm. to 1.225 mm. in breadth. Of fifteen specimens, seven measured 1.2 mm. in breadth. The number of anchor spines usually ranges from 60 to 70; but in a few specimens as low as 53 and as high as 74 were counted. Both in size and the number of spines they considerably exceed those of *Cristatella mucedo* and *C. ophidoidea.*

The individual polyps of *Cristatella Idae* when fully extended are about 3 mm. in length, and their arms support about 80 tentacles. The stomach is chocolate brown; sometimes lighter yellowish or greenish-brown.

The same locality was further remarkable for its profusion of other animals, especially for the abundance of flesh-colored Hydras, and the groups of Vorticellas. Tufts of Anacharis were white from the latter.

Lieut. C. A. H. McAuley, U.S.A., was elected a correspondent.

OCTOBER 7.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty persons present.

On Amœba Blattæ.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that while perusing the communication of Prof. Bütschli on "Flagellata and other related Organisms" (Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Flagellaten und einiger verwandten Organismen), in the Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie, 1878, 205, his attention was especially attracted by the description of a parasitic amœboid living in the intestine of the cockroach, *Blatta orientalis.* It recalled to mind that he had observed the same creature a number of years ago, in association with the ciliated infusorian he had described as *Nyctotherus ovalis.* At that time he had viewed it as a young form of a Gregarina, and had intended giving it and other parasites of the cockroach more critical examination, but failed to do so. The parasitic amœboid, which Prof. Bütschli describes under the name of *Amœba Blattæ* is particularly interesting on account of its habit and its somewhat peculiar character. Prof. L. had recently examined some cockroaches, and found abundance of the amœboid in association with *Nyctotherus ovalis*, *Lophomonas blattarum*, *Oxyurus gracilis*, and *O. appendiculatus*, and an algoid plant.

The amœboid he thought was worthy of a generic distinction from the true *Amœba* holding a position between this and *Protamœba.* From the former it differed in the absence of a contractile vesicle and commonly also of vacuoles, and in the want of differ-